

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A lid apparatus for opening/closing an opening formed in a main body, the apparatus comprising:

a lid having a working face configured to open/ close the opening, and a back face reverse to the working face;

an arm attaching the lid to the main body, for the lid to be operable for opening/closing, the arm including a first axis to pivotally support the arm relative to the main body around the opening, and a second axis to swingably support the lid relative to the arm through the back face, and the second axis being disposed between a center of gravity of the lid and the first axis; [[and]]

a regulatory member configured to intervene between the arm and the back face of the lid, at a regulatory position between the first and second axes, so as to regulate a distance between the arm and the back face of the lid at the regulatory position, such that the working face of the lid is set in parallel with the opening;

a bracket fixed to the back face of the lid; and

a bearing plate supported by the arm pivotally about the second axis,

wherein the bracket and the bearing plate are fixed to each other by a plurality of connecting portions that allow the bracket and the bearing plate to be adjusted in relative positions in a vertical direction.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A vacuum container apparatus comprising:

an airtight container main body having an opening and a seat portion surrounding the opening;

a vacuum exhaust section configured to exhaust an interior of the main body;

a sealing member disposed on the seat portion around the opening;

a lid configured to sit on the seat portion and airtightly close the main body through the sealing member, the lid having a working face configured to open/close the opening, and a back face reverse to the working face;

an arm attaching the lid to the main body, for the lid to be operable for opening/closing, the arm including a first axis to pivotally support the arm relative to the main body around the opening, and a second axis to swingably support the lid relative to the arm through the back face, and the second axis being disposed between a center of gravity of the lid and the first axis; [[and]]

a regulatory member configured to intervene between the arm and the back face of the lid, at a regulatory position between the first and second axes, so as to regulate a distance between the arm and the back face of the lid at the regulatory position, such that the working face of the lid is set in parallel with the opening;

a bracket fixed to the back face of the lid; and

a bearing plate supported by the arm pivotally about the second axis,

wherein the bracket and the bearing plate are fixed to each other by a plurality of connecting portions that allow the bracket and the bearing plate to be adjusted in relative positions in a vertical direction.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the opening is horizontally disposed and faces upward, and the regulatory member is configured to allow a minimal distance to be set between the arm and the back face of the lid at the regulatory position, so as to prevent the lid from inclining about the second axis by its own weight.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the regulatory member comprises an adjustment screw attached to the arm and configured to be adjustable in projecting a length from the arm.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a protection member disposed between the regulatory member and the back face of the lid, and configured to absorb a contact impact.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a bias mechanism configured to supply the arm with a bias force in a direction to open the lid.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the opening is horizontally disposed and faces upward, and the regulatory member is configured to allow a minimal distance to be set between the arm and the back face of the lid at the regulatory position, so as to prevent the lid from inclining about the second axis by its own weight.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the regulatory member comprises an adjustment screw attached to the arm and configured to be adjustable in projecting a length from the arm.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a protection member disposed between the regulatory member and the back face of the lid, and configured to absorb a contact impact.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a bias mechanism configured to supply the arm with a bias force in a direction to open the lid.

Claim 13 (New): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of connecting portions comprises:

- a throughhole formed in the bracket and elongated in the vertical direction;
- a screw hole formed in the bearing plate; and
- a bolt extending through the throughhole and screwed into the screw hole such that the bracket is fixed by the bolt between the bolt and the bearing plate.

Claim 14 (New): The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of connecting portions comprises:

- a throughhole formed in the bracket and elongated in the vertical direction;
- a screw hole formed in the bearing plate; and
- a bolt extending through the throughhole and screwed into the screw hole such that the bracket is fixed by the bolt between the bolt and the bearing plate.